

Although Mrs. Mary Hartwell Catherwood is not a native of Indiana and is not now a resident of the State, she lived within its borders for so many years and so much of

her literary work was done here that she is claimed as an Indiana woman and does not deny the title. For a long period her home was in Howard county, later in Indianapolis, and it was with deep regret that she gave up her residence here, a few years ago, when her husband's business called for removal to Hoopeston, Ill. Since then she has lived in the Illinois town, but it is so near to Indiana that she may yet, for all practical purposes, be fairly considered a citizen. This argument would not hold, it is true, in the case of a man and voter, but the bonds of friendly association and literary sympathy will reach and remain firm where political ties are

Mrs. Catherwood's intellectual tastes and tendencies manifested themselves early. but a young woman with her own way to make in the world cannot depend upon the uncertain results of literary production, and she became a teacher, the public schools at Danville, Ill., profiting by her labors for several years. During this time she employed every spare hour in writing stories and sketches. Finding it difficult to combine two professions successfully, and being anxious to devote all her time to the work she loved best, she went to New York, hoping to maintain herself by the pen. She found what so many ambitious and struggling young men and women do, that until a writer of fiction has reached that point where his name will carry his productions, a satisfactory pecuniary resuit is out of the question. The necessary income must be provided by other means in the sometimes tedious interval. During her stay the enterprising young aspirant gained recognition, however, and before her return enjoyed the pleasure of having a continued story accepted by Hearth and Home, a literary weekly with which Donald G. Mitchell was connected. Soon after her return to Indiana she married, but did not give up her literary labors. She first became known to the public through her stories for children. which received immediate approval. These stories appeared as serials in Wide Awake and other juvenile periodicals, and several were issued in book form by the Lothrops. "Old Caravan Days" and "Rocky Fork." These tales have a charm of simplicity and genuineness that much of the juvenile literstore lacks, and that appeals not less to older readers than to young. The children, as they become absorbed in the pages, do not know just wherein the attraction lies, but their elders understand that it is the naturalness of the simple adventures described, and the point of view taken by the narrator. She has the rare faculty of putting herself in the place of the youngsters whose histories are unfolded and of investing the happenings with the degree of importance which they are likely to attach to them. It is realism with the glamour added that a child's happy fancy gives, and that is granted to but few favored adults to thoroughly comprehend, much less to set forth in printed page. In "Dogberry Bunch" imagination outmeasures the realities, perhaps, the success with which the family of young people left to their own resources overcame all obstacles and difficulties being highly improbable, It is just as young readers would have it, though, and accepting for the sake of argument the objectionable theory that all juvenile literature should teach a lesson, why is not the lesson of success, even in the face of improbabilities, quite as edifying and valuable as that of discouragement and defeat, more true to life though the latter be? The nopefulness and contidence of youth are checked soon enough by the actualities of existence. To disturb those happy qualities in advance by a too practical literature is an unnecessary cruelty. The author's ability to project herself into the child world is delightfully manifested in "Old Caravan Days. "Grandma Padgett" and her brood are movers who travel in a family carriage, an accompany. ing wagon filled with household goods making up the "caravan." from central Ohio to eastern Illinois, following the old "National road" all the way. They pass through Richmond and Indianapolis, and the story has a local coloring besides being of historic interest in describing customs and experiences of which this generation knows nothing. The journey was a delight to the boy and girl of the party, as it would be to any healthyminded boy and girl now, but in these days they would meet with fewer adventures and unevential. "Rocky Fork," the his tory of a little romping Ohio school girl, ls also a charming story. Nothing very remarkable happened to her, but what did occur was so like the experiences of every happy little country girl that the tale has a curious attraction for readers who have heen, as well as the others who are now, figures in such a life.

About this time Mrs. Catherwood's name began to be seen frequently in various periodicals, attached to short stories. Lippincott, the Harper publications and various newspapers opened their pages to her. Although she has written many pleasing sketches, it must be said that she is not at her best in short stories. The strength of her style lies rather in vivid description of places and people, and in the grouping of characters and presentation of meidents that go to make up the lengthened narrative. In the rapid movement and dramatic force necessary to the ideal short story she is somewhat lacking. which is the more strange since the dra-

matic element is strong in her novels. Her imagination sometimes takes a weird turn, with results not altogether artistic or agreeable. This is shown in her story "Craque-o'-Doom," whose hero, a dwarf, is evidently a favorite with the writer but tails to win the reader's sympathy. A dwarf of eccentric and objectionable characteristics also figures in her serial, "The ady of Fort St. John." recently published in the Atlantic Monthly, and mars that otherwise remarkable and impressive rendition of a dramatic bit of history.

It was in "The Romance of Dollard" that Mrs. Catherwood achieved what must have been to her most gratifying recognition. The story has been told before of her wish to secure the publication of that story in the Century, and of her boldness in bearding the editors of that magazine in their den, undeterred by the discouragements and warnings offered to writers not recognized by those personages. Armed with confidence in the merits of her work, and with a letter of introduction from James Whitcomb Riley, she presented herself, with her manuscript, at the sanctum, and, as the result showed, took it by storm. Notwithstanding the prompt preliminary assurance from Mr. Gilder that "owing to superabundance of matter on hand," etc., there was no probability of her story being accepted, it was read and accepted before the week closed, and arrangements were made for its immediate publication -a thing almost unheard of in slow-moving magazine circles. Although there is no doubt that a work of so much merit would eventually have received the recognition it deserved, yet the incident is significant in its refutation of the oft-repeated assertions that it is useless for authors to seek personal interviews with editors, or to procure recommendations for themselves from mutual friends.

In entering upon the study of the old French regime in Canada, of which the required to handle the traffic. The plant has "Romance of Dollard" and the "Story of Tonty" are results, Mrs. Catherwood found a field almost unworked and full of romance. Accident put her in the way of these treasures, and a careful study, ex-tending through several years, followed be-fore she ventured to make use of them. Her characters are historic, and the exploits in mands the constant employment of a dozen which they figure, and which form the men. There are carpenters, tinners, patbasis of the stories, are actual occurrences, tern-makers and mechanics of every nification of the term, owes its being to the related before in dry official annals or in branch employed. brief records that only outlined their im-

trayed in "Dollard" is vouched for by | ial, it is easily understood that the utmost Francis Parkman, the historian. The author succeeds in imparting such life and vigor to these old-time personages that they live and breathe as if they were creatures of to-day, and yet lose nothing of the charm of that primitive new world existence, with whose atmosphere she so thoroughly surrounds them. Such vitality whose mind was filled with the subject, and whose earnestness personified the people until they were real to her, and not dim figures on a distant background. "The Romance of Dollard" is a series of pictures which tempt to reproduction, did but space permit. On every page are touches that illuminate that bygone period and give an in-sight into the spirit of patriotism and adventure that animated the French noblemen and aristocrats who went into voluntary exile for glory and the advancement of their country's fortunes. There was little chance for the development of tender sentiment in these wild scenes, it would seem, yet Dollard's romance could not have been more beautiful and absorbing had be moved in court circles, and in all English fiction is no more charming love scene than the one into which he and his sweetheart are betraved when they meet by accident in the "wife market," where both have come through curiosity. It is matched, perhaps, by the ingenuous grace of her confession to her husband when they were facing the tragic death that befel them after their brief and storm-bound

married life. "'I am ready shrived,' she said, smiling, "except of one fault. That I will now confess-a fault committed against the delicacy of women-and I hated the abbess and the bishop because they detected me in it. I came to New France for love of you. my soldier. Could I help following you from

world to world? "'O Claire!' trembled Dollard, taking off his hat and standing uncovered before her.
"But you should not have known this until we were old, until you had seen me Madame des Ormeaux many years, digni-fied and very, very discreet, so that no breath could discredit me save this, mine

own confession." Francis Parkman says: "While the story of Thermopylæ continues to be loved by men, the story of Dollard cannot die. It is that picture of stalwart heroism which all nations admire. It is the possible greatness of man-set in this instance in blue Canadian distances, with the somber and everlasting Laurentines for its witnesses. The phase is medieval, is clothed with the garb of religious chivalry; but the spirit is part of the universal man."

"The Story of Tonty" is not less perfect in its way than that of "Dollard." She has taken for her hero the friend and companion of La Salle, the man who shared in that explorer's adventures and dangers, and was in some respects greater than he, but who has not had his due share of honor and renown. This book, like the other, bears signs of patient study and investigation, and is a condensed recital of many facts in the early history of Illinois that only needed the touch of the romancer to bring them out in vivid reality. Tonty, as she depicts him, is a strong and winning character. La Salle's characteristics are clearly set forth, and Father Hennepin's pleasing personality adds charm to the pages. Although the book has all the attraction of romance and fiction, it must take its place

among books of historic value. The charge is not likely to be brought against Mrs. Catherwood of being an overproducer. In her historical novels the painstaking necessary in verifying ber narrative, the investigation of books and written documents, many of them in the French language, involve an outlay of time, but her conscientiousness and her artistic taste forbid the giving out of hasty work. A proof of this is her treatment of her latest production. She recently fin-ished a story called "Old Kaskaskia," begun a year before. This story, she acknowledges, would probably be acceptable to publishers and public, but it is not satisfactory to her. To quote her own language: "I have not succeeded in making the picture I wished. So I have pulled it all to pieces again and am doing it al over from the beginning. Not a dead word shall go in-not one phrase which will not bleed if scratched. This, not to be hypercritical, but to be satisfied with my work. Who can doubt that when "Old Kaskaskia' is given to the printer, it will be a gem whose fine polish will please the most ex-

THE HOMESTEAD PLANT.

What Is Made at This Particular Steel-Works -An Immense Establishment.

Homestead Letter in Phi'adelphia Press. The Homestead steel-plant differs considerably in its production and method of work from the other Carnegie iron and steel-works. There are no blast-furnaces here, although the firm owns the Lucy furnaces in Pittsburg. This plant produces plates of various character, boiler, armor, etc., beams and various shapes of structural material. The buildings are all constructed of soft fire-brick, roofed and trussed with steel. The and the trip would be more commonplace | hoisting apparatus of the plant consists of numerous hydraulic cranes, some of which will raise and deposit anywhere within the are of the circle which it describes a weight of 200 tons-equal to eight carloads. The pressure in the water chambers of these cranes is 600 pounds to the square inch. One man handles the largest with the same ease that an engineman draws the throttle of his engine. The amount of water required to operate these and other appliances in the mill, feed the boilers, etc., is 7,000,000 gallons per day.

The process of making armor plate-and this plant is now, with additions recently completed, the largest in the world-is perhaps the most interesting process. Furnaces known as open hearth are used to melt and prepare the metal in this work. When the steel is ready the open-hearth furnaces are tapped and streams of molten steel rut into the mold and the ingot is | city John Jay and the great Washington made. The weight varies from twenty to | Irving; Roscoe Conkling and Bret Harte one hundred tons. It is then stripped, taken from the mold while still hot and is transferred on a special car to the press shop. This car has a capacity of 150 tons, five times that of the average freight car. At the press shop two large cranes that could lift an ordinary house take this mountain of metal and put it in a fur-nace, where it is heated. When the ingot is in proper condition it is lifted from the furnace, placed on the big car and is carried to the armor rolling-mill. It is a mill so ponderous that mere figures are poweriess to convey a full appreciation of its size. A cubic foot of steel weighs over five hundred bounds. In an ingot weighing thirty tons there are 120 cubic feet, and two hundred cubic feet in a fiftyton ingot. These great rolls flatten and widen the ingot until it has reached the desired size. It is then taken a ain to the press-shop, where any rough or ragged ends are cut off by a hydraulic press of 2,500 tons' capacity. It will shear a plate of steel six inches or a foot thick as quick-

ly as a hungry tramp will cut a tenderloin The plate is then placed in the furnace to be tempered. When that process is completed it is removed and placed in a bath, containing 100,000 gallons of oil, where it is allowed to cool. After cooling, it is again put in the furnace and brought to a red heat, called annealing, thence it is placed in an annealing pit and covered with ashes and sawdust and allowed to remain tweive or thirteen days. At the end of that time the plate, over which so much time and 1 .rd work has already been spent, is carried to the great armor-plate machine-shop, Here is a collection of the most gigantic planers, drills, presses, saws, lathes and tools that was ever made. Some of the planing-machines weigh two bundred tons. Throughout the entire plant the most perfect system prevails. The yards are gridironed with railroad tracks to faciliat the most convenient point shops for repairing and turning rolls, in which there are ten lathes; machine shops in which are employed thirty machinists and their belpers. The blacksmith shop, with forges, steam hammers, etc., keeps twenty-five

When it is realized that this plant pro-

care is required on the part of the management, and that much skilled labor is required. The sixteen open-hearth furnaces require thirty-two skilled melters, one for each furnace for each shift. It must not be forgotten that this mill never stops, ex-cept a few hours on Sunday. The eight rolling mills require sixteen skilled rollers, and so on. The entire plant is lighted with electricity. The system comprises 3,050 are and 2,200 incandescent lights. An important use to be made of electricity is to replace numerous small engines with electric appliances. Contrivances called buggies, that transfer ingots, billets or slabs to and from heating furnaces are operated by engines. Electricity will give the engines used in this and several other capacities a

long rest. The office building of the company is a large Gothic brick and stone structure standing on an eminence overlooking the entire plant. Here are the business quarters of Superintendent Potter and his assistants, draughtsmen and engineers, the large accounting and other offices.

Further removed from the mill are eight handsome residences built for the operative managers, and a handsome club-house for the accommodation of guests and officers. The firm has also erected forty other houses for their better-class workmen. The works are the life of the town, which has grown to its present size from a small village a few years ago.

JUSTICE TO THE TOWN BOY.

A Friend Defends Him from the Assertion that All Great Men Ar . Court y-Bred.

In a well-written article in the Social Economist, published in New York city. Prof. J. M. Welding, of Bartholomew county, Indiana, disputes the familiar assertion that most great men are countryborn and bred. So frequently has this assertion been made that it is ordinarily accepted without question, and a presentation of a dissenting argument has the interest of novelty, even though it should not convince those holding to the original proposition of their error. Professor Welding holds that justice to the town boy demands defense against a statement that practically charges him with interiority. He relates an mstance in which an investigation was made by a hobby rider in Cincinnati schools with the object of learning the relative standing of pupils from the country. Physical measurements were taken of these and of an equal number of city boys in the same classes. These were then compared with the class registers showing their intellectual rating. and the result seemed to prove, as he triumphantly announced, that the country lads were physically and mentally in advance of their associates. Only one among teachers and pupils detected any weakness in the conclusion.

"A little red-headed lad of Irish parentage, bright, impulsive and utterly fearless. restlessly fidgeting in his seat, his face ablaze and every hair erect while listening to this elaborately prepared slander of his congeners, jumped to his feet, and, addressing our principal by name, blurted out, "Now you jest look at Miss register and see if them big country boys at the head of our class ain't lots older than us fellows. I'll bet that when us town fellows gits as old as them boys we'll be as big or bigger, and if we're in school at all then, will be in the third or fourth year of the High-school, where these country fellers ort to be if they're so awful smart, and big, and active and all that; and then, why ain't any of them found in even the highest classes of this school?" After the laughter attendant upon this bold speech of our young Nestor had subsided, the principal suggested the fairness of the proposal made by our champion, and, in accordance therewith, the school registers were consulted. The result incontestibly sustained the point raised. It was sound that the average age of resident pupils of the A grade, first intermediate school, was between thirteen and fourteen years; that of non-residents between sixteen and seventeen."

"Then," inquires the writer, "why should the boys belonging to towns of less than five thousand inhabitants be ranked with the country boys? Having been for ten years a pupil in the public schools of Comcinnati, and having had an experience of eighteen years as teacher in country schools of small towns, I am prepared to affirm that the people of small towns have, by long odds, more points of character in common with city people than with the surrounding rustics. Country people generally affect a degree of superciliousness when comparing their own condition as landed proprietors with the lot in life of 'town trash'—the laborers and mechanics who form the body of the town's people. But a moderately close observer will soon note the fact that farmer tolk do not feel the contempt to which they give expression. On the contrary, they pay the town folks the very highest compliment in that they sedulously try to imitate their ways. The degree of culture, intelligence and refinement of a country neighborhood rises in proportion to the nearness of town.

"The general tendency is, whenever a country boy rises to eminence as a man. to add the fact or his country training to his fame. If one of equal eminence is known to have been city-bred no comments are made, as his success is considered as a matter of course. In cases where the early life of a distinguished man has been of a mixed town and country training, it is usual to attribute the entire credit to his rural experience. Henry Clay, for instance, acquired his title as 'Mill-boy of the Slashes' before he was nine years of age. The really formative period of his life was the time from that early age to manhood, spent in Richmond, Va. Let us now make out a list of town and city boys and see if they can be outmatched by an equal number of plow-boys.

"First comes the bright galaxy of Boston boys-Ben Franklin. Chas. Sumner, Edgar Allen Poe. Parkman, the historian, and Ralph Waldo Emerson. Then from the second great city of our early national era. Philadelphia, comes Robert Morris, the financier of the revolution, the poet Boker and Commodore Porter. From New York from Albany, N. Y.; Thos B. Reed and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow from Portsmouth, Me. The three greatest of American historians, Prescott, Ban-croft and Motley, sons of Massachusetts, were town-boys of Salem, Worcester and Dorchester. From the same State come the town-boys, Hawthorn, of Salem; Everett, of Dorchester: and Oliver Wendell Holmes, of Cambridge. More Yankee boys. -Morse, of Charlestown; James Russell Lowell, of Cambridge; William Cullen Bryant, of Cummington; Cyrus W. Field. of Stockbridge. Then the Beecher boys (and girls), of Litchfield, Conn.; Charles Goodyear, of New Haven; Oliver Hazard Perry, and the other great sea-captain, Isaac Huil

of Newport, R. I. "Against the renowned Webster we may match Alexander Hamilton, whose early youth was spent as clerk in a commercial house in the West Indies. Albert Gallatin. his successor as treasurer, was from Geneva, Switzerland. And it may be interesting to note that the earlier 'farmer Presidents' each kept a town-bred man at his

"Would presidential honors have added anything to the fame of these great men! The first presidential candidate of the Republican party was the great 'Pathtinder' and conquerer of California, Gen. John C. Fremont, the Savannah boy. Gen. Winfield Scott was from Petersburg, Va. The two Shermans, William T. and John, were town boys of Lancaster, O. Edwin M. Stanton was from Steubenville, O. Gen. Grant may be claimed as a country boy, but, in reality the town of Point Pleasant had more to do with his early training a vast building, larger than machinery | than the farm. He was a tanner's boy. hall at the Pitisburg Exposition building. The list could easily be swelled, but it

would be unnecessary. "To build a city is the first step of a people that commences a career of civilization and greatness. The Tartars and Bedouins do not build cities, and, to a certain degree they are agricultural; but their very names are synonyms for brutality, cruelty and tate the transportation of raw or finished barbarism. Cities have ever been the material, or material in process of comple- nurseries of patriotism and true human tion. Nineteen locomotives of all sizes are liberty. The very terms applied to the economics and amenities of life are but derivitives from the word 'city,' in various tongues, and have direct reference to the character of city people as distinguished from that of rustics. Civil, civilization, civility, etc., from civitas, a city, steam hammers, etc., keeps twenty-five uen busy. Repairs to gas and steam and water pipes, and required connections, demands the constant employment of a dozen men. There are carpenters, tinners, patbe said that agriculture, in the true sig-nification of the term, owes its being to the requirements of city life. Without a mar-ket for the produce of the field, man turns street, and reserve sleeping-car accommodaportance. The accuracy of the events por- | duces so many kinds and shapes of mater- | to a pastoral life for sustenance. The hus- | tions.

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REMARKABLE TRANSFORMATION.

Wealth and Hard Work Can Refine the Most Uncultured Civilian. Atlanta Constitution.

"About ten years ago," said a Montana capitalist to the writer, "I had in my employ an Irishman, a clever, but totally uneducated fellow, who did odd jobs about my home in Helena. You remember what a feverish state that whole country was in about that time over the rich finds in gold in the country adjacent. My Irishman caught the fever, and one day astonished me by asking me to loan him \$200 with which he wanted to buy a prospector's outfit. The fellow begged so hard, and money was easy anyhow, so I let him have it. He bought him a mule and some tools and lit out for the mountains alone. In about a month he came back to Helena with that mule fairly staggering under a load of the richest ore. He hired three men, bought three more mules, went back to the hills, and struck town shortly afterwards with four mules loaded as the first one had been. A representative of an English syndicate happened to be in Helena about this time on the lookout for mining investments. He saw the Irishman's little pack-train, took a sample of the ore, had it assayed, went out and examined the claim, and then made the Irishman a proposition that mighty nearly scared bim to death. I was sitting in my office at the time, when in burst Mike in a state of terrible excite-

"'What do you think, sor, I'm offered for me claim?' he gasped. 'One million dollars and twenty-foive per cent of the net prof-

"Of course I told him to sell, which he did. It proved a good investment for all concerned, as the Englishmen have taken millions of dollars out of the mine. "But now comes my point. Instead of committing the usual follies that poor men always indulge in when they become suddenly very rich, Mike set about to get the highest benefits of his wealth. There lived in Helens an English lady, widow of an English officer, who was possessed of a high degree of culture and refinement, though in very needy circumstances. Well, sir, the first thing Mike did was to go to this lady and bargain for an education. He placed himself absolutely under her dictation; lived in the same bouse, and she taught him how to hold a knife and fork, how to enter and leave a room. Then followed the rudiments of a literary education, and a year or so of travel. I met my Irish laborer in the parlor of a London hotel about six months ago. You never saw a more perfect gentleman in appearance in your life."

Decidedly Inaccessible.

Minnea polis Journal. Not long ago, at a wedding dinner, one of the guests told this story: In a Western town asmall number of zealous people deciden to put up a Young Men's Christian Association building. A committee was appointed, and they sent for a contractor to undertake the work.

When be came the first thing he did was to inquire in a very worldly and matter-offact sort of way into the financial resources of the organization. The president replied: "Never fear, sir; we are sure of funds; the Lord is on our side."

"That is all very well," replied the contractor, "but I want some one that I can send the sheriff after if necessary."

Steel Cheaper than Iron.

Washington Post. "The railroads are building bridges almost entirely of stone and steel now adays." said Donald McLean, the noted contractor and bridge-builder, at the Riggs House. "Few people probably areaware that steel is preferred for construction purposes because it is cheaper than iron. There will be no more fron bridges built. A lot of old broken iron rails will bring \$32 a ton, whereas you can buy a ton of bright, new steel rails for \$31. The new processes of making the former have cheapened the cause of production, and iron is getting to be a thing of the past. The old iron material is valuable, as it is wanted for mixing with the

Johnny Grows Skeptical.

New York Herald. I've often asked papa to get me a pony but he always says a pony would soon eat its head off. Willie Winkle has had a pony for three years and it eats 'most all the time an' its head isn't off yet. I'm gettin' so I don't b'lieve grown folks knows as much as they think they do.

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